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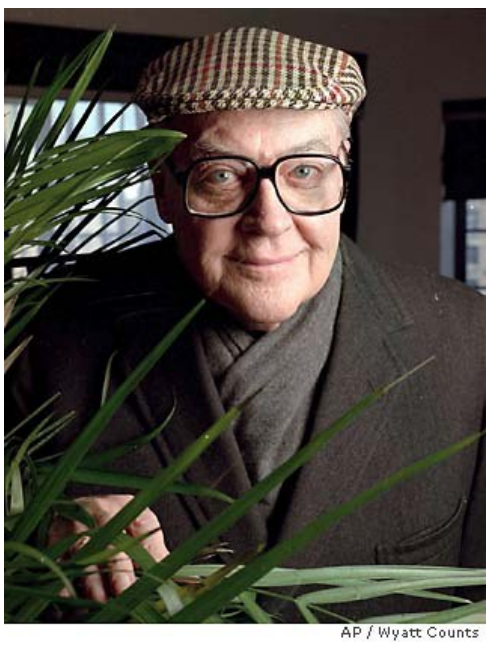
A.NOLEN

Assaulting Mt. Helicon: Writing and Current Affairs.

monthly archives: MAY 2015

MANCHURIANS!

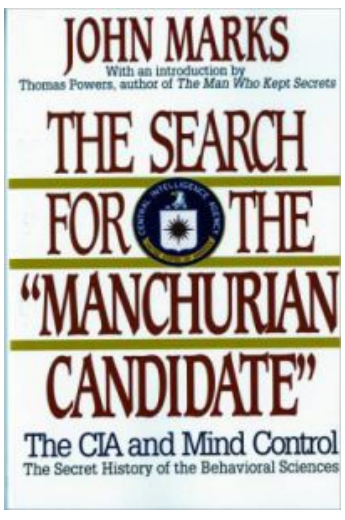


AP / Wyatt Counts

Author Richard Condon.

About a year ago I began to look into the work of John Marks, author of the famous 1979 book *Search for the Manchurian Candidate: The CIA and Mind Control*. Marks is managed opposition to the CIA, I explain that more fully here, but in a nutshell the agency would never have involuntarily released the sensationalist MK ULTRA documents to anyone not in their employ.

Marks' coverage of the MK ULTRA material is dismissive and glosses over important abuses, such as the CIA's interest in 1) manufacturing race riots and 2) election profiling with an eye to manipulating voters. Marks' propaganda offensive would have had its genesis under director William Colby's tenure at the CIA, but continued under George Bush Sr. and Stansfield Turner. Everything about *Search for the Manchurian Candidate* would have been pre-approved by 'floor seven' at Langley.


JOHN MARKS
With an introduction by
Thomas Powers, author of The Man Who Kept Secrets
THE SEARCH FOR THE "MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE"
The CIA and Mind Control
The Secret History of the Behavioral Sciences

Marks' CIA sponsorship makes his choice of title very interesting. 'Manchurian Candidate' is a reference to a 1959 book by Richard Condon, who was one of *Playboy* magazine's favored contributors in the 1980s. (He had one cover feature on the September 1986 issue.) The premise behind Condon's *The Manchurian Candidate* is that a Korean War veteran, Raymond Shaw, is surreptitiously brainwashed by uncouth Soviets and effete Chinamen while 'lost on patrol' for a few weeks. Raymond then becomes the perfect assassin, whose control is activated by seeing a playing card– the Queen of Diamonds.

THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE
BY RICHARD CONDON
He was an honored and feted hero—but his mind and soul belonged to the enemies of his country
NOW AN EXCITING NEW MOTION PICTURE
STARRING
FRANK SINATRA
LAURENCE HARVEY
JANET LEIGH

Condon was exploiting popular interest in “brainwashing” during the 1950s-60s, when the American public was whipped into a frenzy about the USSR’s psychological warfare capabilities– of course, the public had as much or more to fear from the CIA but that wasn’t generally known at the time. If you’d like to know more about what the Agency was **probably** doing, please see my post The Banality of Mind Control.

As I’ve written in previous posts, *Playboy* magazine ran covers preempting many of John Marks’ revelations about the MK ULTRA project, which goes to show that Marks, Colby *et alia* were ‘outing’ programs which had already been compromised and that *Playboy’s* editor, A. C. Spectorsky, was plugged into the crowd who were conducting MK ULTRA research for the CIA. Readers will remember that a 1973 IRS investigation into the Bank and Castle Trust of Nassau showed that Playboy banked with other CIA fronts. (The investigation was scuppered on “national security” grounds, see Alfred McCoy’s *The Politics of Heroin*, 1992.)

Richard Condon’s Playboy cover plugging ‘Prizzi’s Family’.

Richard Condon’s connection with the CIA’s *Playboy* front is one of the more bizarre intelligence stories I’ve come across. Condon’s career was posthumously blighted by a very ugly plagiarism scandal: he had a penchant for lifting work from another *Playboy* contributor, Robert Graves, who had a total of **five Playboy cover appearances** between 1959-76, and who was one of the first ever featured *Playboy* authors.

Robert Graves is notable for his British intelligence connections: he was a close friend of T. E. Lawrence, “Lawrence of Arabia”, and wrote the politically sensitive biography of Lawrence in 1927, after having taken a professorship at the University of Cairo. To learn more about British intelligence intrigues in the Middle East during this time, please see my post Kim Philby and Saddam Hussein. Kim Philby’s father, St. John Philby, was basically continuing T.E. Lawrence’s work.

In 2003 Richard Condon was outed for having lifted many, many sections from Graves’ *I, Claudius* and using them in *The Manchurian Candidate* without any attribution. This was not Condon’s first infatuation with Graves, throughout Condon’s career he showed a preoccupation with Graves’ work:

> *On p. 127 of his [Condon’s] first novel, The Oldest Confession, one of the characters in the book purchases a copy of Graves’ Antigua, Penny, Puce! Then, in Some Angry Angel, the book that followed* The Manchurian Candidate*, Condon makes a direct reference to Graves. In a long, convoluted passage on page 25, Condon reflects on “mistresses” and their, apparently peripheral relationship, at least to the reader, to Graves’s writings about “Major Male” Deities and “Major Female” Deities. As* Some Angry Angel *was published only a year after* The Manchurian Candidate*, there is little question about Condon’s familiarity with Graves’ works.*

Tellingly, Condon never considered his own work anything more than type-for-hire, in his own words:

> *He never had any pretensions about his writing. “I have never written for any other reason than to earn a living, ” Condon told People magazine. “I am a pawnbroker of myth.”*

I find Condon’s attitude toward his writing interesting because of the obvious favor it found with Colby’s circle. Why might the CIA director have a soft spot for *The Manchurian Candidate*? Consider this quote from p. 263, describing the hero Marco’s efforts to counteract Raymond’s brainwashing:

> *However, there was one relentless, inexorable strength on Marco’s side: in combination or singly, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Army Intelligence, and the Central Intelligence Agency represented maximum police efficiency. Such efficiency suspends the law of averages and flattens defeat with patience.*

I think that quotation neatly sums up Condon’s patronage. Condon’s partisanship doesn’t end there. *The Manchurian Candidate* is a *tour de force* of what William Colby’s boy Carl calls “the milk of FDR”, of which his father had drunk copiously. Condon’s book is not about Soviet brainwashing, it’s about the ‘evils’ of Senator Joseph McCarthy, the senator most famous for having gone up against the pro-Soviet ‘fifth column’ which FDR set up in Washington during his record four terms as president– FDR’s ‘fifth column’ included the OSS, which later became the CIA. The majority of Condon’s book is spent in 2-D diatribes against his ‘McCarthy’ character, Sen. Johnny Iselin, and the political master-mind who made Iselin, his dragon-woman wife Eleanor Shaw Iselin.

The ‘twist’ in Condon’s story is that Raymond’s ultimate controller is really his mother, who by building her second husband into a ‘McCarthy’

served the ends of the Soviets against the 'real America'– the supporters of the ACLU and FDR. I'd like to remind readers of Quinn Norton's observation about the US 'intelligence community':

> *The question is who gets to be part of the "we" that are being kept allegedly safe by all this exploiting and listening and decrypting and profiling. When they attacked Natanz with Stuxnet and left all the other nuclear facilities vulnerable, we were quietly put on notice that the "we" in question began and ended with the IC itself. That's the greatest danger.*
>
> *When the IC or the DOD or the Executive branch are the only true Americans, and the rest of us are subordinate Americans, or worse the non-people that aren't associated with America, then we can only become lesser people as time goes on.*

By 'IC' Quinn Norton means 'intelligence community'. In Condon's world, the only "true Americans" are those who got behind FDR's program. Long-time anolen readers will remember that these are the exact same sentiments expressed by OSS director William Donovan's secretary Julia Child and her creepy husband Paul.

For instance, the only people for whom Condon has more contempt than the Chinese or Russians are Americans who opposed FDR's policies. He spends most of the book building a straw-woman out of Raymond's politically astute mother, who was as happy joining "The Daughters of the American Revolution" as "The Friends of Soviet Russia". Raymond's step-father, a villain, refers to WWII derogatorily as "Roosevelt's War"; the only happy time in Raymond's life comes from a romp with the daughter of a "radical" politician who his mother accuses of being a Soviet spy and who gives copiously to the American Civil Liberties Union. (Readers will remember that the ACLU was set up by 'concerned citizens' in response to the Department of Justice's destruction of Leon Trotsky's provocateur networks amongst American immigrants.)

It may also interest readers to know that the evil, anti-Communist Iselins were also against President ~~David Dwight~~ Dwight David Eisenhower in Condon's fictional work– it seems that the people who bankrolled FDR also had a soft spot for Ike. On the opposite side, Condon reserves special contempt for the "religieuse", "crypto-Republicans" and drunks.

There's a heavy dose of Cultural Marxism in Condon's work too: the only American G.I. "healthy" enough to withstand Soviet/Chinese brainwashing is Ben Marco, the womanizer who lives the perfect 'Playboy Lifestyle'– and gives a black eye to any woman who doesn't 'make nice'. His "healthy" attitude to sex allows him to stay "sane" under the pressures of mind-control, according to Condon.

Condon's work is the worst type of pulp– pretentious pulp. He's fond of quoting classical references and he peppers his work with clumsy, contemporary-culture fads. Condon was nothing more than a cheap hack… but a hack who appealed to minds at the CIA. How did Condon get their attention?

Condon was born in NYC and got his first break selling articles to *Esquire* magazine– he then married a model and became a publicist for Disney Studios, which Condon describes as "pimping". Sometime in between all of this Condon worked for the US Merchant Marines.

According to Richard Derus at Library Thing:

> *For 22 years, he [Richard Condon] was a movie publicist, working for almost every major Hollywood studio. With characteristic panache, he later described himself as "a drummer boy for the gnomes and elves of the silver screen."*

I'll remind readers of the US 'intelligence community's' close ties to Hollywood, which will put the next big event in Condon's life into context:

> *Employed by United Artists as an ad writer, he [Condon] complained that he was wasting time in Hollywood and wished to write a novel. Without Condon's knowledge, his boss deducted amounts from his salary then fired him after a year giving him the amount of money he had deducted in the form of a Mexican bank account and the key to a house overlooking the ocean in Mexico. He told him to go write his book. His second novel,* The Manchurian Candidate*, featured a dedication to his benefactor. The movie made from it in 1962 made him famous. Prizzi's Honor (1982) was likewise made into a successful movie.*

It seems that the ground-work for Condon's ridiculously pro-CIA novel, *The Manchurian Candidate*, was laid for him by the good men at United Artists. Condon's book was published under the 'Signet' imprint by the New American Library which, like so many suspicious media concerns, was founded in NYC just after the establishment of the CIA in 1947. *The Manchurian Candidate's* back material advertises a clutch of Signet books by British agent Ian Fleming and Klop Ustinov's son Peter, who wrote *The Loser*: "A fierce and funny novel about a fanatical young Nazi soldier who comes to grief when faced with Italian temperament– and a lovely Italian girl." Readers will remember Klop as the spy-without-a-pension from Great Users of People. Of course, Ian Fleming was all over *Playboy* between 1959-76, and Peter Ustinov got one cover (for his acting work). The New American Library is now part of Penguin Books USA.

What about Condon's other famous book? *Prizzi's Honor* is a mob novel. Of course the OSS, CIA and the Mafia were/are close working allies— naturally both *Prizzi's Honor* and *Manchurian Candidate* were made into Hollywood movies starring *Playboy* stalwarts Frank Sinatra and Jack Nicholson.

Sinatra's 1962 Manchurian Candidate.

Nicholson's *Prizzi's Honor*, a "comic love story" about the murderous business of organized crime.

The Manchurian Candidate was even redone in 2004 with the lead played by a refined Black actor, Denzel Washington.

WIDESCREEN COLLECTION
EVERYTHING IS UNDER CONTROL
DENZEL WASHINGTON
MERYL STREEP
LIEV SCHREIBER
THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE
From the Director of THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS
"This is a terrific movie, as exciting as movies get!"

Denzel plays Ben Marco, just in case you forgot who the good guys are.

I believe that the American 'intelligence community' sponsored Richard Condon's career– it seems that most of this type of sponsorship was done through the CIA and their cultural programs. Condon's *Manchurian Candidate* was designed to bolster public faith in the 'intelligence community' and counter Soviet technological superiority propaganda. *Manchurian Candidate* was also useful for pushing CIA mind-control programs into the background behind Soviet ones– that's why Colby *et alia* were so eager to use the novel in their MK ULTRA 'leak' through John Marks. (You can't reference Marks' work without being reminded of the Soviet mind control novel: 'justification' by association.)

I'd also like to point out that much of what Sen. McCarthy warned the American public about in the 1950s– wide scale Soviet penetration of US power circles– has been shown to have been accurate by subsequent declassification of KGB records and the VENONA transcripts. McCarthy's methods can certainly be criticized– though I've yet to hear any of his detractors explain how McCarthy should have gone about fighting the Soviet-friendly fifth column in Washington D.C. and Hollywood. The persistence and acceptance of simple-minded political tripe like Condon's *The Manchurian Candidate* stands testament to the organization and power of this fifth column. The ACLU– sponsors of Edward Snowden's public appearances— is not on the side of the people, any more than are the FBI, the CIA, Military Intelligence or fake 'liberals' like Richard Condon.

3 COMMENTS

REDDIT NOW FUNDS TOR

Alexis Ohanian, the face of Reddit.

Reddit, the “front page of the internet”, now partially funds the Tor Project. The Tor Project is an internet “anonymity network” which was set up by the US Navy. Tor *claims* to help internet users hide from repressive governments, in reality it’s a US espionage tool designed to get ‘interesting’ targets to self-select.

Tor users are not sophisticated actors. Organizations which are serious about security do not use Tor, because rumblings about Tor’s ‘vulnerabilities’ have been reaching the mainstream media since 2007 (at least). Why would agencies like the NSA want to watch poorly organized and poorly informed ‘onion routing’ users? Well, there’s the blackmail angle: child pornography is all over the Tor network. There’s also the ‘useful idiot’ angle: simple-minded fanatics who believe they’re more dangerous than they really are and who can be easily manipulated into doing things that help the ‘intelligence community’. Think Lulzsec.

I’ve written about Reddit before: it’s a website where users post links to articles, which are then ‘rated’ by other users… all under the eyes of specially chosen ‘moderators’ who remove material they don’t like. The site was founded by Alexis Ohanian, a one-time ‘wunderkind’ internet entrepreneur and the son of *an* Armenian immigrant who grew up in the ‘Metroplex’ around Washington D.C.. Samuel Altman of Y Combinator and Marc Andreessen of Andreessen Horowitz invested in the Reddit operation, which was bought by Condé Nast, a division of the Newhouse family’s Advance Publications. As of 2014, Ohanian continues as Reddit’s executive chairman. The position must not keep him very busy, because Ohanian also runs an investment firm called Das Kapital Capital when he’s not making tech proclamations on mainstream news networks. This is how Ohanian describes himself:

> *In 2006, Alexis Ohanian sold reddit.com, a startup he co-founded with Steve Huffman, to Condé Nast Digital.*
>
> *This made him a 23-year-old accredited investor, one of the most dangerous things in the world. Suddenly becoming more dangerous than a raptor, Jules & Vincent from Pulp Fiction, and Predator (combined) he set off to invest some of this capital in startups led by founders just like him (long on ideas, short on experience, but full of energy). Besides, he wanted to live vicariously through these of startup founders — only sleep better.*

“I’m dangerous!”

Back in 2013 Ohanian tried to sell information about Reddit users to Stratfor via email. (So he may be dangerously stupid!) Stratfor is a sort of CIA-for-hire and Ohanian’s inbox was hacked by Wikileaks. When *Russia Today* reported on Ohanian’s nefarious business proposal, RT was “partially banned” from Reddit. I’m told by multiple Reddit users that linking to anolen.com will get you ghost-banned, or if you’re too high-profile for that, you’ll be harassed by foul-mouthed Reddit moderators.

Alongside his Tor work, Ohanian is now getting involved in international affairs. A few weeks ago he decided to insert himself into the Armenian Genocide narrative by visiting his father’s native country on his birthday, which also happens to be the day designated for the genocide’s memorial. All this at a time when NATO is courting Turkey in strange ways.

The thrust of the Reddit founder’s platform is to get the Armenian Genocide officially recognized as a genocide by the US government– the US, Britain and until recently France have been reluctant to call the 1915 genocide what it was– this reluctance predates current relations with

Turkey, so the stalling *probably* also has something to do with prominent international railway investors' role in the massacre of this Christian minority by the Ottomans. Putin has no problem recognizing the genocide, by the way– so what is Ohanian doing? Perhaps voicing the concerns of US potentates who don't like seeing Islamic Turkey gain too much power.

Why would a crony-capitalist wunderkind roll the dice by propping up the Tor network– especially when he's stretching himself thin over a century-old ethnic grievance?

I'm confident that Reddit has its genesis in the 'intelligence community' just like Tor, which makes it particularly stupid for Tor to have accepted Reddit funding. It's bad tradecraft to link different operations to each other, because when one is exposed, they all are. Tor is notorious for sloppy practices on its back-end, I've written about that here. In a nutshell, Tor tried to make itself look 'internationally diverse' by setting up a myriad of different shell organizations over the globe, but they didn't go the extra mile to make sure these shell organizations appeared to be active and take funding from different sources.

Jacob Appelbaum, the face of the Tor Project. Check out all the weirdness around him here.

I don't think Tor's, and now Reddit's, sloppiness problems are unique to their operation– I think the whole US 'intelligence community' is run like a third-generation company. Their pathetic Twitter-like project 'Zunzuneo' is another good example of bad work.

There are some intelligence organizations that do a lot with very little, Cuba is one example and Jordan may be another one. The United States, however, is the opposite of these two. The US 'intelligence community' has phenomenal resources, but appears to have a real problem recruiting competent talent. Perhaps this is because 'IC' leaders are preoccupied with reliability instead of ability; perhaps the American 'IC' is what happens when you employ too many sons and lovers.

Tor has been criticized over the last two years for its reliance on US government funding, in 2013 the *Washington Post* (even!) reported that 60% of Tor's funding still comes from "the Feds". The *WP* was white-washing: it turns out that 75% of 2013 Tor funding came from the USG.

According to The Daily Dot, a very pro-Tor blog/internet news source:

> *In response to increasing public and internal dialogue, the organization [Tor] will be making a sustained push to increase funds from all other sources in order to decrease their dependence on the U.S. government.*
>
> *Developers recently discussed the push to diversify funding at Tor's biannual meeting in Spain, including setting a goal of 50 percent non-U.S. government funding by 2016.*
>
> *Tor developers at the meeting also brought up the possibility of lobbying foreign governments within, for instance, the European Union.*
>
> *However, increasing non-governmental funding is a major priority.*

In response to this obvious PR problem, Tor has attempted to "eclipse" US government sponsorship by looking for "non-governmental" sponsors… like Reddit. Herein lies the great irony.

This official Reddit plush toy will only set you back US$142 and is available from the Reddit Store.

I eagerly await learning who Tor enlists over the next few months… which EU governments, "non-governmental" actors and business concerns will

reach out and grab the tar-baby. In the meantime, here's the list of 2015 Tor sponsors who have already self-identified:

- More than 4,300 personal donations from individuals like you (2006-present)

Read all about those "concerned citizens" here.

- Reddit (2015)

Yahtzee!

- Radio Free Asia (2012-2016)

… which is overseen by the Broadcasting Board of Governors, a US propaganda organ that funded Tor through 2006-2013.

- National Science Foundation joint with Georgia Tech and Princeton University (2012-2016)
- National Science Foundation via University of Minnesota (2013-2017)

'National' as in 'United States of America'.

- Hivos/The Digital Defenders Partnership (2014-2015)

I guess the Swedes worked out their differences with the Jacob Appelbaum and Ed Snowden. According to the Digital Defenders Partnership:

> *The Digital Defenders Partnership has its origins in the Freedom Online Coalition, and is managed by Hivos, an international NGO based in the Netherlands. As an initial investment, the governments of the Netherlands, the United States, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Estonia, Republic of Latvia, Czech Republic and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) have dedicated financial support.*

SIDA funded Tor from 2010-2013. Forget 'Iron Curtain', think 'Digital Curtain'.

- SRI International (2011-2015)

SRI International, or as it used to be called 'The Stanford Research Institute', is a huge, US-government derived, private research consultancy which was founded in 1946 with Herbert Hoover's help and continues to do a phenomenal amount of work for the US military. Child movie star and US ambassador Shirley Temple was married to one of SRI's stars, Charles Alden Black, a Navy intelligence officer. From her *Washington Post* obituary:

> *Luminaries who paid visits to Miss Temple in Hollywood included Amelia Earhart, Albert Einstein, J. Edgar Hoover and Eleanor Roosevelt. She received an honorary child-sized Oscar in 1935.*
>
> *"As long as our country has Shirley Temple," Franklin Roosevelt said, "we will be all right."*

Presumably the same goes for SRI International.

- US Department of State Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (2013-2016)
- An anonymous North American ISP (2009-present)

Concluding remarks:

1) It's interesting that the Broadcasting Board of Governors and SIDA are now trying to hide their Tor sponsorship behind daughter/partner organizations.

2) Tor still isn't your friend.

3) Armenia, beware of Americans bearing gifts.

2 COMMENTS

KIM PHILBY AND SADDAM HUSSEIN

The official story of Kim Philby's career begins and ends with Zionism. We're told that Kim was recruited to the KGB through the beguiling Zionist and Communist Litzi Friedmann (born Alice Kohlmann). Litzi's contacts in England were Philby's first KGB handlers.

Litzi Friedmann/Alice Kohlmann

After Litzi come the Rothschilds. Introductions from Victor Rothschild, who worked with his uncle Lord Rothschild as a sort of tag-team on Zionist issues, put Philby's recruits inside the 'charmed circle' of British intelligence.

Victor and Barbara in 1936, the year he bought the Atlantic.

Victor's on the left.

Finally in 1962, complains from Flora Solomon to Victor (the 3rd Lord Rothschild by this time) about Philby's KGB work in the 1930s sealed his fate. Flora's complaints were motivated by Philby's "anti-Israel" writing for the *Observer*.

Flora Solomon

So, we're told that Kim's career sweetened and soured along with his relation to Zionism; the most dramatic moments being punctuated by the Rothschild family. All sides of the 'Fifth Man' debate concur on these details.

I believe that this official story flatters Zionist power and uses the 'Rothschild' name to distract from other important power-politics. Philby didn't end up in Beirut by accident; neither was the timing of his defection to the USSR dictated by the whim of a jealous ex-lover. To illustrate my point, I offer a time line placing Kim's Beirut work and defection into context with the power-politics which were playing out in Middle East.

Events leading up to Kim Philby's 'Defection'

1940 From this date onward Khairallah Talfah, Saddam Hussein's uncle, begins his intermittent care of the three-year old Hussein, due to the following: 1) Saddam's father's desertion of the family; 2) Saddam's mother's mental illness; and 3) an abusive step-father. (Why is this important? Please see my post The Cult of Intelligence and Sullivanians, or Fourth Wall Cult.)

1941 Khairallah Talfah cooperates with the Nazis in an attempt to free Iraq from British Imperial domination. This puts Talfah at odds with the post-WWII Iraqi regime, which was beholden to the British.

May 25th 1951 Donald Maclean and Guy Burgess defect to the USSR, though this was not confirmed in the press until 1956. Kim Philby's association with the pair forces him to defend his actions publicly, which he does with great skill. It's unclear what else Philby does between 1951 an 1956.

1953 Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser's American-smelling radio program 'Voice of the Arabs' begins broadcasting. The program promotes Nasser's 'Pan-Arabist' and anti-*European*-Imperialist ideology. The American-smelling print media nexus in Beirut, Lebanon also promotes Nasser's politics.

1956 At 18 years old Saddam Hussein is part of an assassination attempt on King Faisal II (an Imperial British puppet-king) and Prime Minister/General Nuri al-Said, who handed Iraq's oil rights to the British. Both attempts fail.

August 1956 After being forced out of MI5 but avoiding prosecution for this suspected spy-work, Kim Philby is posted to Beirut to serve as a correspondent to *The Economist* and *The Observer*. Kim teams up with his father St. John Philby (a regional political insider and confidant of the Saudi royal family) who is also living in the city. Kim's journalistic work is a cover: Kim Philby gives information to the KGB (Modin, *My 5 Cambridge Friends*) and MI6, which hired him as a type of consultant.

October 29th-31st 1956 Israel, Great Britain and France invade Egypt in order to take control of the Suez Canal and to remove Nasser from power. The three aggressors are defeated in their primary goals, leaving the USA and USSR free to try and fill the power vacuum left by previous colonial powers.

1957 On turning 20, Saddam Hussein joins the Ba'ath Party in Iraq

after careful grooming from his uncle Talfah. *Note Saddam's career in wet-work started well before his Ba'athist political career.*

February 1st 1958 Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser forms an alliance with the Syrian branch of the Ba'ath party to form the United Arab Republic. The other notable branch of the Ba'ath party is in Iraq.

October 7th, 1959 According to Biography.com: "Saddam and other members of the Ba-ath Party attempted to assassinate Iraq's then-president, Abd al-Karim Qasim, whose resistance to joining the nascent United Arab Republic and alliance with Iraq's communist party had put him at odds with the Ba'athists." Biography.com neglects to tell readers that this assassination attempt was supported by the CIA.

When the assassination fails, Hussein leaves for Egypt where Nasser is still in power. Somebody pays for Saddam Hussein to get a law degree while in Egypt.

December 1961 Anatoly Golitsyn, a senior KGB officer, defects to the West.

March 1962 Anatoly Golitsyn starts talking to American counterintelligence about a 'Cambridge Five' spy ring.

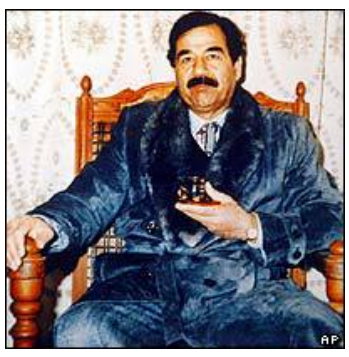
August 1962 Lord Rothschild brings Flora Solomon in to MI5 to accuse Philby of trying to recruit her to the KGB in the 1930s. 'Cambridge Five' case reopened. Peter Wright takes Solomon's statement for MI5.

January 10th 1963 Nicholas Elliot, a good friend of Philby and previous MI6 station head in Beirut returns to Beirut to extract a 'confession' from Philby and is authorized to offer Philby immunity from prosecution. Elliot succeeds in getting a confession from Philby, who was suffering from a head wound, but Philby doesn't try to return to Britain with the immunity offer.

16th January 1963 According to Tom Carver: "Peter Lunn, who had replaced Nicholas Elliott as Beirut station chief, ordered Philby to report to the British Embassy, where it would have been possible to arrest him. Philby pleaded continued problems with his head injury and didn't go. He later told [his lover] Eleanor that 'the minute that call came through, I knew the balloon was up.'"

23rd January 1963 Kim Philby defects to the Soviet Union.

8th February 1963 Ramadan Revolution happens in Iraq: Ba'athist revolutionaries assassinate Prime Minister Abd al-Karim Qasim with CIA support. Saddam Hussein returns to Iraq from Egypt after the initial stages of the revolution, and things start going right for him. By 1968 Saddam is one of the most powerful men in Iraq and a driving force behind the Ba'ath party.



I think this series of events provokes questions about the 'Cambridge Five' narrative; even if only to make one wonder why Philby's defection isn't discussed in terms of the turmoil in Iraq, a country which Allen Dulles called "the most dangerous spot in the world" under Communist-affiliated Qasim's rule, 1958-63. Allen Dulles was the head of the CIA from 1953-1961.

These questions become more pointed with more background information. I'll start by pointing out that the rudderless Saddam Hussein, an exploited twenty-five year old, was being groomed by somebody in Egypt during 1959-63. Readers will remember that Anita Pallenberg, an 18 year old with a murky past, was being groomed by the CIA through Playboy magazine in Rome at roughly the same time. Where Anita found 'belonging' through the twisted world of CIA-sponsored counter-culture, Saddam found belonging in the Ba'ath party and their CIA-supported intrigues. **Somehow** the CIA identified Saddam as a useful asset– probably through his spooky Uncle Talfah– and the Agency shipped Saddam off to their friends in Egypt when things got too hot for him in Baghdad.

A youthful portrait of Saddam Hussein

CIA involvement with Egyptian president Nasser's regime is well known, according to ex-Voice of America employee and historian John Buescher:

> *The Dulles brothers provided military advisors and equipment to the Egyptian army. Through clandestine contacts, both the State Department and the CIA gave Egyptian leaders, especially Nasser, important intelligence training and assistance in moderating potential internal political rivals and in conducting propaganda campaigns.*

Nasser was personally close to CIA leadership, the 'new kids on the block', according to CIA historian Ricky-Dale Calhoun:

> *Director of Central Intelligence Allen Dulles took a particularly favorable view of Nasser, even after it became*

> *known that Nasser had agreed to purchase arms from the Soviet Bloc on very attractive barter terms. The CIA station chief in Cairo, Miles Copeland, was on even more cordial terms with Nasser—and he shared Nasser's distrust of the British.*

Egypt became a focal point for American intelligence after the Suez Crisis, which opened the possibility for America to take over 'patronage' of the country in place of the British or French. Nasser's 'pan-Arabist' ideology echoes long-standing American anti-imperialist propaganda: a cynical, hypocritical position favored by creeps like Claire Boothe Luce for flattering native governments and cherry-picking assets from crumbling European empires. Boothe Luce's penchant for anti-imperialism is why the British sent spook-gigolo Roald Dahl to influence her during WWII; her husband's media empire would later become a cover for the CIA.

Could the "assistance in moderating potential internal political rivals" of which John Buescher writes have included setting up Nasser's dedicated radio station 'Voice of the Arabs'? US intelligence had a well-established working relationship with both British and American radio media for propaganda purposes– FDR had been giving 'fireside chats' since the early Thirties. I find the name 'Voice of the Arabs' strikingly similar to that of US Government propaganda vehicle 'Voice of America', an Office of War Information monstrosity that was founded in 1942 and cooperated with the BBC to pummel the rest of the world with Washington D.C.'s point of view. The 'Voice of America' is now brought to you by the Broadcasting Board of Governors, the same people who manage Radio Free Europe, Radio Free Asia, and who fund the Tor Project.

Laura James, from the Economist Intelligence Unit– *The Economist* like Kim Philby– has this to say about 'Voice of the Arabs' and it's *Egyptian* intelligence connection:

> *"The Voice of the Arabs" had been very carefully designed to become a regional phenomenon. Following the establishment of the new Egyptian intelligence service in March 1953, the Interior Minister, Zakaria Mohieddin, and intelligence officer Fathi al-Dib had formulated an Arab nationalist action plan, which included the development of a radio show as well as funding for Arab nationalist writers and students to study in Egypt.*

Students like Saddam Hussein, I wonder…

The other prong to Nasser's propaganda offensive came from Beirut, Kim Philby's new base. Beirut had been the Middle East's information hub since American missionaries set up printing presses there in the 1830s. According to historian Lucy Ladikoff:

> *Eli Smith's activities in Syria had far reaching results especially after the removal of his American mission's printing press from Malta to Beirut. This was of great use to the Arabic language. "Though it was not the missionaries themselves who worked to save the language from its decay, still it was their means, such as schools and new educational systems, printing press equipped to issue books in the Arabic language, and their money that were at the service of the great, enlightened and intellectual Arabs of the period.*

Besides having control of Beirut's influential press, the Americans had a stranglehold on the education system. The American University in Beirut, one of the CIA's favored recruiting hubs, was founded in 1866 by a protestant missionary using British and American money. It goes without saying that missionaries have always been a useful source of information for Western intelligence agencies– especially in hostile regimes like that of the Imperial Chinese. Regular readers will remember that the talkative Bill-Colby-henchman David Obst was *probably* collecting information from missionaries in Taiwan prior to his Stateside espionage.

I think I've established that the CIA had a close working relationship with Saddam Hussein's Egyptian protector between 1959-63 and that Beirut was a spook-hub, a bit like Vienna is today. In light of these facts Kim Philby's 'exile' from London is more understandable: it wasn't an exile at all, but simply facilitated his next mission. *Why was someone with Kim Philby's baggage sent to operate around the "most dangerous spot in the world"?*

Between Kim and his father St. John, there were few people in the world with better intelligence contacts for the Middle Eastern sphere; Beirut offered the best market for the Philbys' services.

St. John Philby

St. John's contacts were hard won. He was the last in a line of intrepid British agents who manipulated the fanatical tribes of the Arab Peninsula; in St. John's case, he's noted for playing the Sauds against another British ally, Sharif Hussein bin Ali. The Brits' history of double-dealing and broken promises, particularly in regard to Anglo-French Declaration and the Balfour Declaration, made St. John's job very difficult.

While St. John is considered a traitor for favoring Standard Oil interests over British ones when the Saudis were negotiating oil concessions in the 1930s, it's often overlooked that the British made themselves so reviled with their dishonest policies that awarding the rights to their buddies the Americans was probably the best outcome that London could hope for. (Standard Oil executives had close ties to the OSS and CIA, so St. John's choice paid Churchill great dividends later.)

St. John is also considered an enemy of Israel, even though his plan for the settlement of Israel, which respected native Arabs' political rights, was the Jewish State's only reasonable shot at long-term viability, as even actors like Henry Kissinger now recognize.

In short, between Kim Philby's MI6/KGB/CIA contacts and St. John Philby's Arab ties there was little the pair didn't know about American hopes in the Middle East and how these hopes could be manipulated or even dashed. Bear this in mind when considering Saddam Hussein's myriad of failed assassination attempts against different targets prior to Kim Philby's *expulsion* from the Middle East.

I chose the word 'expulsion' very carefully, because I believe it's a better description of what happened in January 1963 than 'defection'. MI6 did not consider Philby a *dangerous* KGB agent otherwise they wouldn't have continued to use him and he certainly wouldn't have been posted to Beirut just as the Suez was heating up. The British position is supported by the fact that the KGB harbored doubts about Philby's loyalty (See *My 5 Cambridge Friends*)– doubts that didn't go away after his defection.

What's far more likely to have happened in 1963 was that Kim Philby became too much of a liability as British Intelligence became more dependent on the Frankenstein they created over in Langley. British double-dealing with the KGB at the expense of American interests *in the Middle East* became costly. The best and safest way to contain Kim was behind the Iron Curtain; part of the price Churchill's intelligence services paid for their 'desperate deception' was 50 years of control (and counting!) in the Arab Peninsula.

I do not mean to imply that Rothschild or Zionist interests play no role in the 'Cambridge Five' nor that they are unconnected with KGB spying. I'm saying that they don't deserve the preeminent position in the Philby narrative. I suspect that Litzi was useful for establishing Philby's communist credentials, and that Flora was just a useful idiot. Victor Rothschild was one agent in a shameful tradition of privileged intrigue, which I discuss in Is the Devil a German? and to which ends the lives of Kim Philby, Saddam Hussein and millions of regular people are just collateral damage.

Readers may also be interested in my posts on Abaddon, A Death in Finland and Jihad Al What?

**Correction: In the timeline under 1957 I had quoted William Neikirk of the *Chicago Tribune* on another failed assassination attempt by Saddam against a communist supporter of Qasim, but the date appears

to be wrong and I was unable to confirm this plot elsewhere, so I've removed it from the timeline.**

6 COMMENTS

WHY FIVE?

Anatoliy Golitsyn and his wife Svetlana dine out at the Coconut Grove in L.A. circa 1961.

This is awkward. It seems that the 'Cambridge Five' are numbered five because of information from Anatoliy Golitsyn, a KGB major who defected to the USA in 1961. These are Golitsyn's words circa March 1962, according to Peter Wright in his book *Spycatcher*:

> *Golitsin said he knew of a famous "Ring of Five" spies, recruited in Britain in the 1930s. They all knew each other, he said, and all knew the others were spies. But Golitsin could identify none of them, other than the fact that one of them had the code name Stanley, and was connected with recent KGB operations in the Middle East. The lead fitted Kim Philby perfectly, who was currently working in Beirut for the* Observer *newspaper. He said that two of the other five were obviously Burgess and Maclean. We thought that a fourth might be Anthony Blunt, the Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures, and a former wartime MI5 officer who fell under suspicion after the Burgess and Maclean defections in 1951. But the identity of the fifth was a complete mystery. As a result of Golitsin's three serials concerning the Ring of Five, the Philby and Blunt cases were exhumed, and a reassessment ordered.*

Golitsyn is not a popular figure. On their website, the CIA cautiously implies Golitsyn fed counterintelligence director James Angleton disinformation about Soviet penetration of Western intelligence services— the famous 'Monster Plot'. David Robarge, the CIA chief historian, takes the denunciation one step further:

> *Given the Soviets' record of success at penetration and deception operations going back to the 1920s, and with no current evidence to the contrary, Angleton was justified in presuming CIA also was victimized. However, there was no other source, human or technical, that he could use to guide him on the molehunt — only his favored source, KGB defector Anatoli Golitsyn, and their symbiotic relationship soon became professionally unbalanced as the manipulative and self-promoting defector's allegations of international treachery grew more fantastical…*

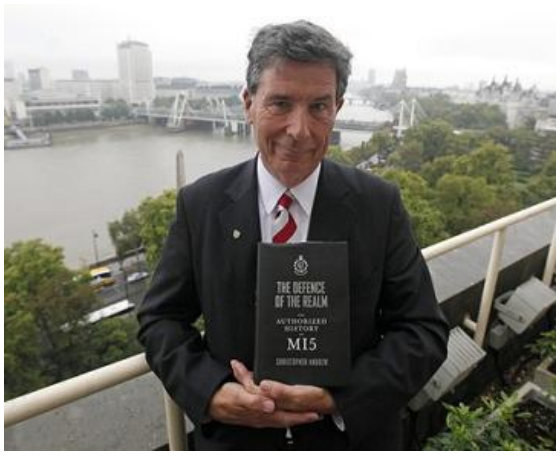
According to Robarge, the consequences of this "unbalanced" relationship were:

> *For roughly the next 10 years, distracted by unsubstantiated theories of Soviet "strategic deception," Angleton and his staff embarked on counterproductive and sometimes harmful efforts to find moles and prove Moscow's malevolent designs.*

Christopher Andrew, Cambridge University's weather vane for what is politically acceptable to say about espionage, summarizes Golitsyn more neatly as an "unreliable conspiracy theorist".

Golitsyn is so reviled in upwardly-mobile intelligence circles that he's become *the* 'Dezinformatsiya' case study for trainee spooks– a bit like how Angleton is the case study for "how not to conduct counterintelligence". The CIA drills into its newbie counterintelligence recruits that Angleton was wrong and that Golitsyn was **probably** sent by the KGB to hobble Western counterintelligence efforts.

So it's *awkward* that establishment intelligence historians, including Prof. Andrew, should continue to throw about phrases like 'The Cambridge Five' or 'The Magnificent Five' when talking about Philby's spy ring. According to their canon, the source of this information was "unreliable".



A book by Chris Andrew and Chris Andrew.

As far as I can tell, pinning the number five onto the Cambridge ring is unjustified. Prior to 1961, British VENONA-type decrypts (Moscow to London KGB channel) mention a "valuable argentura [spy ring] of Stanley, Hicks and Johnson", which makes a 'Cambridge Three'. If the Americans/British suspected there were more than three spies in the Cambridge ring at that time, the VENONA decrypts contained handles for an estimated 800 other recruited Soviet agents to chose from, according to Peter Wright in *Spycatcher*.

VENONA aside, there were plenty of Cambridge 'friends' to come under suspicion: Victor Rothschild (provided the spies with valuable intelligence connections); James Klugman (Cambridge undergrad who recruited John Cairncross); Harry Pollitt (British Communist Party General Secretary who controlled Klugman); and goodness only knows how many Michael Straight-like characters were rolling around University halls. To say that there were 'five' in Philby's network seems a bit hopeful, frankly.

So if the source of the 'five' meme is unreliable, and given the historical record points to the possibility of more than Burgess/Blunt /Maclean/Philby/Plus One in the Cambridge ring, why do we still keep hearing about the 'Cambridge Five' from people who *know better*? Probably because it suits the intelligence establishment to continue to minimize the number of agents publicly tainted by this scandal. If such minimization is important now, imagine how important it was for the British in 1963.

Readers will remember that none of the 'Cambridge Five' actually faced justice for their actions. Maclean made it to the USSR, Burgess ran before he really had to. There was little political will to prosecute Kim Philby for over a decade, and absolutely zero to prosecute the Queen Mother's cousin Anthony Blunt. According to *The Daily Mail*, Blunt's treachery was well known in royal circles **since 1948**:

> *A royal source tells the story of how, in 1948, a young ex-officer, Philip Hay, came to Buckingham Palace to be interviewed for the post of Private Secretary to the widowed Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, mother of the present Duke.*
>
> *As he walked down a red-carpeted corridor with Sir Alan Lascelles, the King's private secretary, they passed Blunt in silence. When they were out of earshot, Sir Alan whispered to Hay: 'That's our Russian spy.'*

Catching a spy like Blunt, who was so well understood by his 'victims', was hardly a counterintelligence coup. Perhaps the reason that 'experts' latched onto Golitsyn's "Ring of Five" was because 5 – 4 = 1, and 1 is the absolute minimum number of spies needed to explain the 'tip-off' which helped Philby evade justice in 1963, when imperial politics turned against Kim.

The search for this *one remaining spy* has generated a huge amount of media coverage; coverage which for the most part discounts the possibility of a 'Cambridge Six', or 'Cambridge Eight' etc., despite the fact that a larger spy network was very likely. I think that this unnatural focus on five has served a very specific propaganda goal: to obscure the wide-spread collaboration between elements in Britain's intelligence community and the KGB. It would damage this 'fifth column' if the general public became aware of the extent of their influence. Further exposure of British double-dealing would also have damaged relations with their American counterparts: the Americans were used to lying about their own KGB collaborations, but were not used to being lied to themselves.

Debate around 'Who was the fifth man?' has been carefully crafted in order to shepherd public interest away from the possibility of further treachery by trusted 'intelligence community' leaders. I have not read every book on the 'Cambridge Five' but from what I've read so far, the sparky media squabble surrounding this lone 'fifth man' was channeled into two camps: 1) Chapman Pincher along with MI5 colleagues Peter Wright and Arthur Martin, who pushed Roger Hollis as the fifth agent and 2) those more 'urbane' analysts who objected to Wright's 'divisive' methods. On the whole, group two favors Yuri Modin's allegations that odd-man-out John Cairncross was the 'fifth'. (Wikipedia favors Cairncross, btw.)

Fighting between these two camps took place in print, sometimes with weird bitterness– take 'Yuri Modin' (in reality, his ghostwriters) on Peter Wright's questioning of Guy Burgess' lower-class acquaintances, such as repairmen, etc.:

> *The vindictive attempts of former officers of British Intelligence (specifically Peter Wright and Arthur Martin) to unearth these so-called agents recruited by arch-fiend Burgess make me laugh. I hate to think that the organizations against which I strove my working life were run by people whose thought processes never went beyond the most simplistic notions of true or false, good or bad, necessary or desirable; but Wright and Martin are certainly people of that ilk.*

Later, Modin opines:

> *Peter Wright in his book Spycatcher states that the reason why the KGB allowed Blunt to do this [transfer to Surveyor of Kings' Pictures] was that we had another mole inside MI5. Wright concluded, rather hastily, that the other agent was Roger Hollis. In 1987, when Wright's book was published, British intelligence carried out a detailed inquiry which turned up nothing new. Peter Wright had no proof of what he said. It's too easy to cast grave suspicion on a colleague, as Wright did on Hollis, without anything like sufficient evidence.*

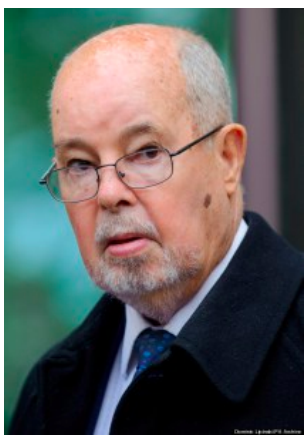
'Yuri Modin' has very strong feelings on the subject of the 'Cambridge Five' and has little tolerance for anyone who doesn't share his view that John Cairncross was 'the fifth man'. I'll point out two obvious things: 1) even the real Yuri Modin didn't have access to *every* KGB illegal's file; 2) Hollis is a much bigger fish than Cairncross. Hollis ran MI5, while John Cairncross was a much lower-level intelligence functionary, so Cairncross being the 'fifth man' is far less alarming.

Yuri Modin

Why might 'Yuri Modin' have such strong feelings? Well, the introduction to *My 5 Cambridge Friends* was written by David Leitch from the *Sunday Times*. Leitch was part of a spy-outing team which included his newspaper colleague Barrie Penrose, as well as Phillip Knightley, Bruce Page and John Le Carré, the troika with whom Leitch wrote a book on Kim Philby– 'The Spy Who Betrayed a Generation'. Who are these men?

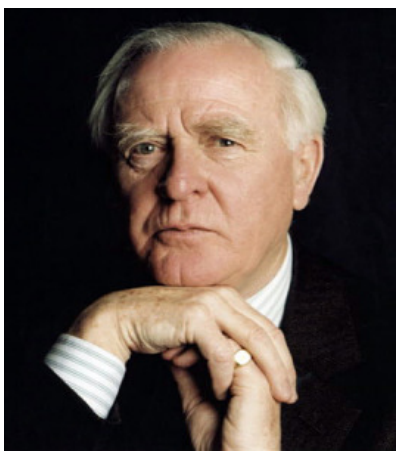
In the late 60s, David Leitch worked closely with Bruce Page to 'expose' Kim Philby as a KGB agent for the *Sunday Times'* Insight team– an 'exposure' that would never have happened without intelligence approval. Leitch is also the first man to have claimed in print that John Cairncross was the 'fifth' spy, hence his introduction to Modin's book. Leitch is now dead, but Bruce Page is going strong: in 2013 he wrote a politically-sensitive biography of power-broker Rupert Murdoch in the wake of the hacking scandal.

Leitch's other journalistic partner, Phillip Knightley, is an established media 'expert' on intelligence matters, which means he works closely with the intelligence community. Tellingly, in 2010 Phillip Knightley acted as a bail sureties provider for Wikileaks founder Julian Assange.



The leaks pro Phillip Knightley.

John Le Carré is the pen name of David John Moore Cornwell, an MI5 and MI6 agent who began writing spy thrillers while still working in intelligence. When 'Le Carré' found out he had a readership, he became an 'ex intelligence officer'. Le Carré has enjoyed a celebrated, orthodox career in mainstream publishing by interpreting current events for the public in politically acceptable ways– all with a sprinkling of 'James Bond' dust.



John Le Carré puckering under the discomfort of an awkward pose.

While the 'fifth man' debate is mostly centered around Cambridge spies, you'll find Wright-haters popping up in the oddest places. Take this quote from biographer Francis Wheen in *Tom Driberg: His Life and Indiscretions:*

> *At about the same time as [Anthony] Blunt was briefing [Nigel] West, Wright was busily unburdening himself of a lifetime's secrets– and paranoid anti-Communist obsessions– to Chapman Pincher.*

Wheen starts his book by claiming that allegations of Tom Driberg's spying stem from a plot between Lord Rothschild, Peter Wright and others in the "queer fraternity of spy-writers". Who is Francis Wheen?

Francis Wheen and his machinery for cranking out Driberg biographies.

Francis Wheen is a BBC radio broadcaster from a privileged army background, who found his calling working for the New Statesman (as in Frances Stonor Saunders and George Bernard Shaw). Wheen is an expert on Karl Marx who supported NATO's intervention in the former Yugoslavia. His other interest is the spooky Tom Driberg, about whom Wheen has written two biographies. You can read about Tom Driberg's connection to the Rolling Stones here, and Driberg's connection to Soviet illegal agent Ernst Henri here.

The 'other side' to this spectacle is no less suspect. Chapman Pincher was a well-known journalist who worked closely with British intelligence figures, sometimes even lying for them, as happened with the Christmas Island hydrogen bomb test demonstrations. Peter Wright is a second-generation intelligence agent with strong ties to the Marconi Company. According to *Spycatcher*, Wright was involved in MI6 attempts to murder the Cypriot General Georgios Grivas, and claimed to be James Angleton's go-to man for help on CIA plans to assassinate Castro. Peter Wright was also involved in LSD testing *as in the MK ULTRA program*. Arthur Martin was Wright's MI5 sidekick. None of these men are 'good guys'.

Chapman Pincher, eager for any intel honcho to "use" him.

My point with these biographies is to show that neither side to the squabbling over the 'fifth man' is free of intelligence connections. Neither side takes the *logical* position: there were more spies than simply Golitsyn's five and it *really doesn't matter* who the 'fifth' one was. Because of this willful foolishness, I conclude that neither side was/is motivated by a sincere desire to uncover the truth about Philby's spy ring– most likely both sides are working for the same masters.

If you're willing to view the 'debate' over the 'fifth man' in the same way as I do, then you'll be hit by the sobering reality that academia, the media, politicians like Margaret Thatcher and the 'watchdogs' of the intelligence community organized themselves to mislead the public over the extent of British intelligence's cooperation with the KGB. Why might they do that?

4 COMMENTS

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